

**P-20 Council Meeting
September 21st, 2015
12pm – 4pm
Illinois State University,
Room 116, Alumni Center, 1101 North Main, Normal IL
Conference Line: 888-494-4032
Access Code: 4218176480#**

Minutes

In Person: Randy Dunn, Roger Eddy, Theresa Hawley, Kurt Hilgendorf, Janet Holt, Karen Hunter-Anderson, Joyce Karon, Debra Kasperski, Melissa Mitchell, Laurel Prussing, Beth Purvis, Audrey Soglin, Robin Steans, *Special Guests:* Senator Jason Barickman, Senator Andrew Manar, ISBE Superintendent Tony Smith

On Phone: Sarah Hartwick, Mary Milano, Melissa Mitchell, Gia Orr, John Rico, Jane Russell, Beth Swanson

- I. Welcome & Lunch/Guest Speakers
 - a. Council Chair Beth Purvis began the meeting by welcoming the council and the guest speakers Senator Manar, Senator Barickman, and Illinois State Board of Education, Superintendent Tony Smith. Each senator was given time to talk about the approaches to K-12 funding.
 - b. Senator Barickman began his presentation (which can be found in the meeting materials) with the education funding reform and believed that currently in the legislation there is a heightened awareness of the issues. One of the key issues that Barickman pointed out is that Illinois is diverse and that for every proposal that is presented on funding reform, diversity of the state has been a challenge. Since fiscal year General State Aid (GSA) by 58%. There has been a significant increase in state aid since FY 2000. Senator Barickman has also explained that the Property Tax Extension Law Limit (PTELL) adjustment is a reaction by the general assembly that manipulates the ability to get money to base foundation formula and people generally don't trust that the money will go where it needs to be.
 - c. Senator Manar began his presentation by explaining that he wanted to focus on funding problems and explain how Senate Bill 1 was formed. Similar to Senator Barickman, Manar stated that there were significant regional differences in education funding in Illinois, which should be something to worry about. Since 1997 there have been problems due to these regional differences that the state's funding formula hasn't addressed. Compared against other states, Illinois has the largest income-achievement gaps in the country as well as the worst race-based achievement gaps in the country that continue to grow worse in part because the state does not use its money to the best of its abilities.

According to Senator Manar, one foundation level when it comes to funding does not serve the regions and different students in different regions have different needs. In his

closing remarks, Senator Manar said that he didn't know if we had every answer that we need today in regards to funding but Senate Bill 1 puts us real close to where we need to be and it puts us close to other states as well.

Q&A (30 min)

After their individual presentations, Senator Barickman and Senator Manar answered clarifying questions from council members. Before the council took a 15min break.

Break (15min)

c. Superintendent Tony Smith (45 min)

After reconvening, Council Chair Beth Purvis, introduced Illinois State Board of Education Superintendent Tony Smith. Since starting his role as State Superintendent, Smith has been trying to meet and connect with people and hear real stories from the districts. What has been brought repeatedly to his attention is that since legislators don't pass bills until the fall, the school districts feel continued pressure on themselves because they create their budgets and do staffing in the spring. This creates an "invisible cost" in people running these school districts to figure out how to make stuff work.

II. P20 Council Review of Survey Results – Dr. Janet Holt (20 min)

III. Connecting Subcommittee Initiatives with P20 goals – Council Chair Beth Purvis (30 min)

IV. New Business & Updates (20 min)

V. Meeting Adjourn